

Message Text

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21

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 OMB-01 DRC-01 /150 W

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R 260753Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1769

INFO AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMCONSUL LAHORE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PK

SUBJ: GOVERNMENT MOVES AGAINST NAP IN FRONTIER

REF: ISLAMABAD 9175

FOLLOWING RECEIVED FROM CONSUL PESHAWAR

1. TWO HIGH LEVEL NATIONAL AWAMI PARTY LEADERS TOLD ME THIS WEEK THEY ESTIMATE OVER 500 WARRANTS OF ARREST WERE ISSUED BY NWFP GOVERNMENT JUST PRIOR TO LARGE-SCALE ROUND-UP OF NAP MEMBERS ON OCTOBER 18. THEY SAID OVER 250 MEMBERS OF THEIR PARTY AND A HADNFUL OF JUI FOLLOWERS ALREADY ARRESTED IN NORTHERN PART OF PROVINCE AND SPECULATED THAT ANOTHER 75 PERSONS HAD BEEN ROUNDED UP IN DERA ISMAIL KHAN, BANNU AND KOHAT DISTRICTS. POLICE ARE NOW SEEKING APPREHEND THOSE MARKED FOR ARREST WHO STILL AT LARGE. ALMOST ALL OF THOSE NOW IN CUSTODY, THEY SAID, COULD BE CATEGORIZED AS COMPRISING "FOURTH"

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OR LOWEST LEVEL OF PARTY LEADERSHIP. IT WAS THEIR VIEW

THAT GOVERNMENT DOES NOT INTEND ARREST WALI KHAN AND OTHER TOP LEADERS OF PARTY IN NEAR FUTURE, BUT IS PLANNING TO MAKE SERIES OF MASS ARRESTS IN STAGES, WORKING GRADUALLY UP FROM BOTTOM TO TOP OF LEADERSHIP HIERARCHY, TESTING PUBLIC OPINION AT EACH STAGE. ALTHOUGH THEY RELUCTANT TO REVEAL NAP'S STRATEGY IN FACE OF GOVERNMENT'S MASS ARREST POLICY, THEY INDICATED THAT MOST OF THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN ABLE TO AVOID ARREST THIS PAST WEEK HAVE EITHER GONE "UNDERGROUND" IN SETTLED AREA OF PROVINCE OR HAVE FLED TO TRIBAL AGENCIES.

2. COMMENT: FROM VANTAGE POINT OF PESHAWAR, IT APPEARS THAT CENTRAL GOVERNMENT PROBABLY NOT PLANNING ARREST WALI KHAN AND OTHER TOP NAP LEADERS IN IMMEDIATE FUTURE. NWFP GOVERNOR ASLAM KHATTAK SUGGESTED TO ME OCTOBER 24 THAT PRIMIN BHUTTO EXPECTS EXPLOIT WALI KHAN'S RECENT "SECESSIONIST" PRONOUNCEMENTS IN EFFORT TO CREATE DISSENSION IN RANKS OF UNITED DEMOCRATIC FRONT. KHATTAK'S REMARKS SEEMED TO INDICATE HE BELIEVES PRIMIN NOT LIKELY ARREST WALI KHAN UNTIL HE HAS MADE FURTHER ATTEMPT TO ISOLATE NAP FROM ITS UDF ALLIES IN PUNJAB AND SIND. IN THE MEANTIME IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHETHER GOVERNMENT WILL BE SUCCESSFUL IN ITS EFFORTS TO ISOLATE WALI FROM HIS OWN PATHAN CONSTITUENTS BY CARRYING OUT MASS ARRESTS OF LOCAL NAP LEADERS.

SOBER

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